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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/975,168	10/11/2001	Thomas L. Weaver	38190/239642	9101	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	09/975,168	WEAVER ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Nathan Curs	2613				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING D - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMU 136(a). In no event, however, may will apply and will expire SIX (6) Me, cause the application to become	NICATION. y a reply be timely filed NONTHS from the mailing date of this commune ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status						
Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>26 №</u> This action is FINAL . 2b) This Since this application is in condition for alloward closed in accordance with the practice under Expression in the Expression i	s action is non-final. ince except for formal m		rits is			
Disposition of Claims						
 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. 						
Application Papers						
9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examine 10) ☑ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2004 is/a Applicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Example 2004.	are: a) \boxtimes accepted or be drawing(s) be held in abe stion is required if the draw	yance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). ing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.	121(d).			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 						
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	Paper I	w Summary (PTO-413) No(s)/Mail Date of Informal Patent Application 				

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 26 November 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharma et al. (US Patent No. 5717795) in view of Kartalopoulos ("Introduction to DWDM Technology: Data In A Rainbow"; S.V. Kartalopoulos; IEEE Press, 2000; pages 41 and 42).

Regarding claim 1, Sharma et al. disclose a closed-loop optical network system (fig. 15 and col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 56) comprising: a network bus for transmitting a plurality of optical signals (fig. 15, element B1); a multiplexer capable of wavelength division multiplexing a plurality of input optical signals for transmission via the network bus, wherein the plurality of

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input optical signals have a plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths (fig. 15, elements A15 and A17 and lambdas 1-n and 1'-n'); a plurality of add/drop multiplexers optically connected to the network bus and a plurality of remote devices, wherein said plurality of remote devices are capable of reading optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths off of the network bus via respective add/drop multiplexers (fig. 15, elements C1-Cn, where the mux/demux pairs read on add/drop multiplexers and where the RX elements read on remote devices capable of reading specific optical signals), wherein said plurality of remote devices are further capable of writing optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths onto the network bus via respective add/drop multiplexers (fig. 15, where the MOD elements read on remote device capable of writing specific optical signals), and wherein at least one of the add/drop multiplexers is assigned an optical wavelength that differs from the optical wavelength assigned to any other add/drop multiplexer (fig. 15 and col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11 and col. 9, lines 33-35); and a demultiplexer capable of receiving optical signals having at least one of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths from the network bus and thereafter wavelength division demultiplexing the optical signals into a plurality of output optical signals (fig. 15, elements A11 and lambdas 1-n). Sharma et al. do not explicitly disclose the fiber type of the fig. 15 embodiment; however Sharma et al. do disclose multi-mode transmission in another embodiment (col. 6, lines 40-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the multi-mode laser source and filter arrangement disclosed by Sharma et al. in the fig. 15 embodiment as well, since a multi-mode laser will be more affordable than a single-mode laser source. Kartalopoulos discloses that multimode fiber has the advantage of being easy to splice and to couple light into (page 42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use multimode fiber in the

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system of Sharma et al. since it is easy to splice and to couple light into, as taught by Kartalopoulos.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a closed-loop optical network system according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of optical sources capable of generating the plurality of input optical signals from a plurality of input electrical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A16 and A14).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a closed-loop optical network system according to claim 2 further comprising a network controller for controlling communications on the network bus, wherein said network controller is capable of transmitting the plurality of input electrical signals to said plurality of optical sources (fig. 15, element A13).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a closed-loop optical network system according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of optical detectors capable of receiving the plurality of output optical signals from said demultiplexer and thereafter generating a plurality of output electrical signals from the plurality of output optical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a closed-loop optical network system according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of optical detectors are capable of transmitting the plurality of output electrical signals to a network controller (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12 and A13).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a closed-loop optical network system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of remote devices read and write optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths that are

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at least subsets of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths of the optical input signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, lambdas 1-n and 1'-n' and col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11).

Regarding claim 7. Sharma et al. disclose a node for transmitting input optical signals to and receiving output optical signals from a plurality of remote devices via a fiber network bus in a closed-loop optical network system (fig. 15, element A1 and col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 56), said node comprising: a plurality of optical sources capable of generating the plurality of input optical signals from a plurality of input electrical signals (fig. 15, elements A16 and A14); a multiplexer capable of wavelength division multiplexing a plurality of input optical signals for transmission via the network bus, wherein the plurality of input optical signals have a plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths that are selectively received by respective remote devices via respective add/drop multiplexers (fig. 15, elements C1-Cn, where the mux/demux pairs read on add/drop multiplexers and where the RX and MOD elements read on remote devices), at least one of the add/drop multiplexers being assigned an optical wavelength that differs from the optical wavelength assigned to any other add/drop multiplexer (col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11 and col. 9, lines 33-35); and a demultiplexer capable of receiving optical signals having at least one of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths from the network bus and thereafter wavelength division demultiplexing the optical signals into a plurality of output optical signals (fig. 15, element A11). Sharma et al. do not explicitly disclose the fiber type of the fig. 15 embodiment; however Sharma et al. do disclose multi-mode transmission in another embodiment (col. 6, lines 40-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the multi-mode laser source and filter arrangement disclosed by Sharma et al. in the fig. 15 embodiment as well, since a multi-mode laser will be more affordable than a single-mode laser source. Kartalopoulos discloses that multimode fiber has the advantage of being easy to splice and to couple light into (page 42). It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use multimode fiber in the system of Sharma et al. since it is easy to splice and to couple light into, as taught by Kartalopoulos.

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a node according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of optical sources are capable of communicating with a network controller, wherein the network controller is capable of transmitting the plurality of input electrical signals to said plurality of optical sources (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, element A13).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a node according to claim 7 further comprising a plurality of optical detectors capable of receiving the plurality of output optical signals from said demultiplexer and thereafter generating a plurality of output electrical signals from the plurality of output optical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a node according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of optical detectors of said receiving element are capable of transmitting the plurality of output electrical signals to a network controller (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12 and A13).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a node according to claim 7, wherein plurality of remote devices read and write optical signals having predefined optical wavelengths that are associated with the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths of the optical input signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements C1-Cn).

Regarding claim 12, Sharma et al. disclose a method of transmitting a plurality of optical signals over a network bus in a closed-loop network system (fig. 15, element A1 and col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 56), said method comprising the steps of: transmitting a plurality of input optical signals via the network bus, wherein transmitting comprises wavelength division multiplexing the

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plurality of input optical signals for transmission via the network bus such that the plurality of

input optical signals have a plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths (fig. 15, elements

A16, A14, A15 and A17); communicating with a plurality of remote devices via a plurality of

add/drop multiplexers that are optically connected to the network bus and respective remote

devices, wherein said communicating comprises reading optical signals having respective

predefined optical wavelengths off of the network bus (fig. 15, elements C1-Cn, where the

mux/demux pairs read on add/drop multiplexers and where the RX elements read on remote

devices reading specific optical signals), at least one of the add/drop multiplexers being

assigned an optical wavelength that differs from the optical wavelength assigned to any other

add/drop multiplexer (fig. 15 and col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11 and col. 9, lines 33-35); and

receiving optical signals having at least one of the plurality of predetermined optical

wavelengths from the network bus and thereafter wavelength division demultiplexing the optical

signals into a plurality of output optical signals (fig. 15, elements A11 and A12). Sharma et al.

do not explicitly disclose the fiber type of the fig. 15 embodiment; however Sharma et al. do

disclose multi-mode transmission in another embodiment (col. 6, lines 40-45). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the multi-mode

laser source and filter arrangement disclosed by Sharma et al. in the fig. 15 embodiment as

well, since a multi-mode laser will be more affordable than a single-mode laser source.

Kartalopoulos discloses that multimode fiber has the advantage of being easy to splice and to

couple light into (page 42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to use multimode fiber in the system of Sharma et al. since it is easy to

splice and to couple light into, as taught by Kartalopoulos.

Regarding claim 13, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 12, wherein communicating further comprises writing optical signals

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having respective predefined optical wavelengths onto the network bus (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements lambda 1-n and 1'-n').

Regarding claim 14, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 13, wherein writing optical signals comprises writing optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths that are at least a subset of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths of the optical input signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements C1-Cn).

Regarding claim 15, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 12 further comprising generating the plurality of input optical signals from a plurality of input electrical signals, wherein said generating occurs before transmitting the plurality of input optical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A16 and A14).

Regarding claim 16, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 15 further comprising producing the plurality of input electrical signals before generating the plurality of input optical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, element A13).

Regarding claim 17, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 12, wherein receiving further comprises generating a plurality of output electrical signals from the plurality of output optical signals after wavelength division demultiplexing the composite optical signal (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12).

Regarding claim 18, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 17, wherein generating the plurality of output electrical signals further comprises transmitting the plurality of output optical signals to a network controller after generating the output electrical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12 and A13).

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Regarding claim 19, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 12, wherein communicating comprises reading optical signals having a plurality of predefined optical wavelengths that are at least a subset of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths of the optical input signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements C1-Cn).

Regarding claim 20, the combination of Sharma et al. and Kartalopoulos discloses a method according to claim 12, wherein receiving the optical signals comprises receiving the optical signals after transmission about a closed loop on the network bus from a transmitter to a receiver (Sharma et al.: fig. 15).

4. Claims 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharma et al. (US Patent No. 5717795) in view of Kartalopoulos ("Introduction to DWDM Technology: Data In A Rainbow"; S.V. Kartalopoulos; IEEE Press, 2000; pages 41 and 42), and further in view of Polczynski (US Patent No. 4089584).

Regarding claim 21, Sharma et al. disclose an optical communications network (fig. 15 and col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 56) comprising: a closed-looped optical network system comprising: a fiber network bus for transmitting a plurality of optical signals (fig. 15, element B1); a multiplexer capable of wavelength division multiplexing a plurality of input optical signals for transmission via the network bus, wherein the plurality of input optical signals have a plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths (fig. 15, elements A14-A17); a plurality of add/drop multiplexers optically connected to the network bus and a plurality of remote devices, wherein said plurality of remote devices are capable of reading optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths off of the network bus via respective add/drop multiplexers (fig. 15, elements C1-Cn, where the mux/demux pairs read on add/drop multiplexers and where the

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RX elements read on remote devices capable of reading specific optical signals), and wherein said plurality of remote devices are further capable of writing optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths onto the network bus via respective add/drop multiplexers (fig. 15, where the MOD elements read on remote device capable of writing specific optical signals), and wherein at least one of the add/drop multiplexers is assigned an optical wavelength that differs from the optical wavelength assigned to any other add/drop multiplexer (col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11 and col. 9, lines 33-35); and a demultiplexer capable of receiving optical signals having at least one of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths from the network bus and thereafter wavelength division demultiplexing the optical signals into a plurality of output optical signals (fig. 15, element A11). Sharma et al. do not explicitly disclose the fiber type of the fig. 15 embodiment; however Sharma et al. do disclose multi-mode transmission in another embodiment (col. 6, lines 40-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the multi-mode laser source and filter arrangement disclosed by Sharma et al. in the fig. 15 embodiment as well, since a multi-mode laser will be more affordable than a single-mode laser source. Kartalopoulos discloses that multimode fiber has the advantage of being easy to splice and to couple light into (page 42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use multimode fiber in the system of Sharma et al. since it is easy to splice and to couple light into, as taught by Kartalopoulos. Sharma et al. do not disclose the network used for communications among different nodes within a vehicle, with the fiber and nodes disposed at least partially throughout said vehicle body. However, Polczynski disclose a closed-loop, multi-mode, plural node optical communication network used within vehicles (col. 1, lines 21-24; col. 3, lines 3-6; col. 4, lines 38-43), where inherently the network is disposed at least partially throughout the vehicle. Considering that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention that the components of the Sharma et al. optical network come in very small component sizes, it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the network of Sharma et al. as an optical network within a vehicle, as taught by Polczynski, in order to provide the benefits immunity to electromagnetic interference and no need for radiation shielding for the vehicle, as disclosed by Polczynski (col. 1, lines 9-24).

Regarding claim 22, the combination of Sharma et al., Kartalopoulos and Polczynski discloses a vehicle according to claim 21, wherein said closed-loop optical network system further comprises a plurality of optical sources capable of generating the plurality of input optical signals from a plurality of input electrical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A14 and A16).

Regarding claim 23, the combination of Sharma et al., Kartalopoulos and Polczynski discloses a vehicle according to claim 22, wherein said closed-loop optical network system further comprises a network controller for at least partially controlling communications on the network bus within said vehicle body, wherein said network controller is capable of transmitting the plurality of input electrical signals to said plurality of optical sources (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, element 13).

Regarding claim 24, the combination of Sharma et al., Kartalopoulos and Polczynski discloses a vehicle according to claim 21, wherein said closed-loop optical network system further comprises a plurality of optical detectors capable of receiving the plurality of output optical signals from said demultiplexer and thereafter generating a plurality of output electrical signals from the plurality of output optical signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12).

Regarding claim 25, the combination of Sharma et al., Kartalopoulos and Polczynski discloses a vehicle according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of optical detectors of said

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closed-loop optical network system are capable of transmitting the plurality of output electrical signals to a network controller (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements A12 and A13).

Regarding claim 26, the combination of Sharma et al., Kartalopoulos and Polczynski discloses a vehicle according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of remote devices of said closed-loop optical network system read and write optical signals having respective predefined optical wavelengths that are at least subsets of the plurality of predetermined optical wavelengths of the optical input signals (Sharma et al.: fig. 15, elements C1-Cn).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 26 November 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues in the remarks on page 9, lines 15-26 that "In contrast to the system of amended independent Claim 1, neither Sharma nor Kartalopoulos (nor Polczynski), taken individually or in any proper combination, teach or suggest a closed-loop optical network including a multi-mode network bus and a plurality of add/drop multiplexers at least one of which is assigned an optical wavelength that differs from the optical wavelength assigned to any other add/drop multiplexer" (emphasis applicant's). The applicant adds that one could argue that Sharma does disclose various embodiments of a closed-loop optical network including a plurality of add/drop multiplexers, but that in all such embodiments Sharma explicitly discloses that each of its add/drop multiplexers shares a wavelength with another of its add/drop multiplexers. The applicant also applies this argument to the other independent claims 7, 12 and 21.

However, the rejections are specifically based on the fig. 15 embodiment of Sharma. It is irrelevant whether any of the other embodiments of Sharma share wavelength assignments

to any other add/drop multiplexer.

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between add/drop multiplexers. As for the fig. 15 embodiment, the applicant's argument requires that the claimed multiplexer and demultiplexer in claims 1, 7 and 21 (or the multiplexing and demultiplexing in method claim 12) are *not* considered "add/drop" multiplexers, since the claimed multiplexer and demultiplexer transmit and receive *all* the bus wavelengths and thus share wavelength assignments with *all* the other nodes. Likewise, the multiplexers and demultiplexer of Sharma's central node, element A1, are not "add/drop" multiplexers. Rather, the mux/demux pairs in nodes C1-Cn of Sharma are "add/drop" multiplexers. Further, each add/drop multiplexer of nodes C1-Cn is assigned a wavelength different from any wavelength assigned to any other add/drop multiplexer, as is evident in the figure. Specifically, the add/drop multiplexer of node C1 is assigned wavelengths λ 1 and λ 1', which are not assigned to any of the add/drop multiplexers of nodes C2-Cn. The add/drop multiplexer of node C2 is assigned wavelengths λ 2 and λ 2', which are not assigned to any of the add/drop multiplexers of nodes C1 and C3-Cn, and so on. Therefore, Sharma discloses a plurality of add/drop multiplexers at least one of which is assigned an optical wavelength that differs from the optical wavelength assigned

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to N. Curs whose telephone number is (571) 272-3028. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (from 9 AM to 5 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached at (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of

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a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to

the receptionist whose telephone number is (800) 786-9199.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pairdirect.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NMC

12/5/2007

Nathan M. Curs